

gyric of Mamertinus there occurs a curious passage, which shows with what eyes the Romans regarded that river. The orator is eulogising Maximian in his most fulsome strain for restoring tranquillity, and then says: " Was there ever an Emperor before our day who did not congratulate himself that the Gallic provinces were protected by the Rhine ? When did the Rhine shrink in its channel after a long spell of fine weather without making us shiver with fear? When did it ever swell to a flood without giving us an extra sense of security ? " * In other words, the danger of invasion rose and fell with the rising and falling of the Rhine. But now, continues the Panegyrist, thanks to Maximian, all our fears are gone. The Rhine may dry up and shrink until it can scarce roll the smooth pebbles in its limpid shallows, and none will be afraid. As far as I can see beyond the Rhine, all is Roman" (*Quicquid ultra Rhenum prospicio, Romanum esf*). Rarely has a court rhetorician uttered a more audacious lie. - TKere was no quality of permanence in the Gallic ; peace. Constantius took advantage of a temporary lull to recover Britain, but in 301 he was again fighting the invading Germans and Franks, winning victories which had to be repeated in the following summer, and making good the dearth of labourers on the devastated lands of Gaul by the captives he had \ taken in battle. There is a remarkable passage in the Fifth Panegyric in which the author refers -to the long columns of captives which he had seen on ~the march in Gaul, men, women, and children on

* *Pan. Vet.*, ii., 7.